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Lt. Governor

State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services
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SARAH ADELMAN
Commissioner

GREGORY WOODS
Assistant Commissioner

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE
AND HEALTH SERVICES

N.N.,

PETITIONER,

v.

DIVISION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

AND HEALTH SERVICES AND

MIDDLESEX COUNTY BOARD

OF SOCIAL SERVICES,

RESPONDENTS.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

FINAL AGENCY DECISION

OAL DKT. NO. HMA 04039-25

As Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS), I have reviewed the record in this case, including the OAL case file, the documents in evidence, and the Initial Decision in this matter. Neither Party filed exceptions. Procedurally, the time period for the Agency Head to render a Final Agency Decision is July 25, 2025.

This matter arises from the Middlesex County Board of Social Services' (Middlesex County) November 27, 2024 denial of Petitioner's Medicaid Only application for failure to

provide information necessary to determine eligibility. The issue presented here is whether Middlesex County's denial of Petitioner's application was appropriate under Medicaid regulations.

Both the County Welfare Agency (CWA) and the applicant have responsibilities with regard to the application process. N.J.A.C. 10:71-2. 2. Applicants must complete any forms required by the CWA; assist the CWA in securing evidence that corroborates his or her statements; and promptly report any change affecting his or her circumstance. N.J.A.C. 10:71-2.2(e). The CWA exercises direct responsibility in the application process to inform applicants about the process, eligibility requirements, and their right to a fair hearing; receive applications; assist applicants in exploring their eligibility; make known the appropriate resources and services; assure the prompt accurate submission of data; and promptly notify applicants of eligibility or ineligibility. N.J.A.C. 10:71-2. 2(c) and (d). CWAs must determine eligibility for Aged cases within 45 days and Blind and Disabled cases within 90 days. N.J.A.C. 10:71-2.3(a); Med Comm No. 10-09, and Fed. Reg. 42 CFR § 435. 91.

On February 5, 2024, Petitioner applied for Medicaid benefits with Middlesex County. (R-A). On September 5, 2024, Middlesex County requested additional information to process the application, with a due date of September 19, 2024. (R-B). Petitioner submitted the requested information. (R-E.) By letter dated November 8, 2024, Middlesex County again requested verification of various information related to Petitioner, including monthly bank statements from 01/2019 to 12/2023 from Haticoop Savings account ending in 3526; verification of all large transactions from account at any time the balance fluctuated over \$1,500; monthly transactions from account at any time the balance fluctuated over \$1,500; monthly statements from Banco Popular account ending in 6862 with verifications of all large transactions and life insurance with current face value

and cash surrender value, by November 22, 2024. Ibid. On November 27, 2024, Middlesex County denied Petitioner's Medicaid application due to the failure to provide the requested information required to determine eligibility. (R-C.) On November 27, 2024, Petitioner requested an extension. ID at 2.

During the hearing, C.H., who testified on behalf of Petitioner, argued that they had made several calls to Middlesex County and requested an extension, which was denied. ID at 1. Petitioner claimed that they needed more time to travel to Puerto Rico and obtain the necessary information. Ibid. Petitioner emailed a phone call log to the OAL office confirming their witness statements on June 1, 2025. (P-1.)

Idania Barraza (Barraza), who represented Middlesex County, testified that she handled Petitioner's application; however, her supervisor denied the extension request. ID at 2. Barraza further testified that Petitioner requested the extension after the due date. Ibid.

The Initial Decision upholds the denial, and I concur. The Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) found that Petitioner did not timely provide all the required documentation under N.J.A.C. 10:71-2.2(e) and -2.3(a) and that no exceptional circumstances exist under N.J.A.C. 10:71-2.3(c). ID at 2.

Here, both Middlesex County and Petitioner had responsibilities regarding the application process. The record demonstrates that Middlesex County requested additional information; however, Petitioner failed to provide the requested information before November 22, 2024. Nothing on the record indicates that the missing information was provided by the deadline.

The time frame may be extended "when documented exceptional circumstances arise" preventing the processing of the application within the prescribed time limits. N.J.A.C. 10:71-2.3(c).

The request for information (RFI) clearly instructed that if Petitioner could not obtain the requested information, they could send a letter of explanation. The record does not include a letter of explanation from Petitioner. Petitioner requested an extension on November 27, 2024; however, it was made after the due date.

Based on my review of the record, I FIND that Petitioner has failed to provide the financial verification requested by Middlesex County in a timely manner. I further Find that Petitioner failed to timely request an extension or present any exceptional circumstances that prevented them from providing this information.

I finally FIND that Middlesex County correctly denied Petitioner's Medicaid application when Petitioner failed to provide the requested information before the due date and failed to provide any exceptional circumstances that prevented them from providing this information, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:71-2.2. and 2.3, and N.J.A.C. 10:71-2.3(c).

THEREFORE, it is on this 21st day of JULY 2025,

ORDERED:

That the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED.



Gregory Woods, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services